

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Clarification is requested regarding the Examiner's comment on page 2 of the Office Action dated January 14, 2009 that "Claims 1-3, 8, 19 and 23-34 are currently still pending in the application". Claims 1-3, 8 and 19 were canceled in an Amendment filed July 15, 2008. Claims 23-34 were canceled by way of the Examiner's Amendment included with the Notice of Allowance dated September 25, 2008, as defining previously withdrawn subject matter.

Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 11, 12 and 16 have been revised above to depend from claim 13, without prejudice. Claims 6, 7, 9-18 and 20-22 are pending. Claims 4-7, 9-18 and 20-22 were previously allowed and the applicants submit the unamended claims continue to be patentable over the art of record.

The allowance of claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 18 and 20-22 in the Office Action of January 14, 2009 is acknowledged, with appreciation.

The objection to claim 16 is obviated by the above amendments. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claims 4, 5 and 11 over Gutsche (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030114018) and Rodrigo (U.S. Patent No. 4,064,221) is moot with regard to claims 4 and 5 and is obviated with regard to claim 11 by the above amendments. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

IMAI ET AL.
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The Section 103 rejection of 12 over Gutsche, Rodrigo and Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20050136658) is obviated by the above amendments. Claim 12 depends from allowed claim 13 and is believed to be also therefore allowable. Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 12 over the combination of Gutsche, Rodrigo and Yamaguchi is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claim 16 over Gutsche, Rodrigo and Nakada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040053516) is obviated by the above amendments. Claim 16 depends from allowed claim 13 and is believed to be also therefore allowable. . Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 16 over Gutsche, Rodrigo and Nakada is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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